



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jacob Thomas, et al.                      Art Unit : 2857  
Serial No. : 09/976,573                                      Examiner : McElheny, D.  
Filed : October 12, 2001  
Title : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REAL TIME RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF NOVEMBER 3, 2003

In reply to the Office Action of November 3, 2003, Applicants submit the following remarks.

Claims 1-36 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-36 are rejected. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29-31, 33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rinaldi (4,676,313). Claims 6, 8, 10, 13-21, 24, 27, 28, 32, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rinaldi. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks herein.

In rejecting the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Rinaldi is cited as teaching "updating of the [production/injection forecast]. . . as a continuously ongoing monitored iterative process." However, in describing the invention throughout the specification, Rinaldi discusses determining flow patterns *continually*, not continuously. For example, at column 2, lines 21-24, Rinaldi states "The computer *continually* monitors and compares these pressures and flow rates, determines flow patterns, and opens or closes the reservoir valves as required," (emphasis added).

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